

Maine Climate Council Working Groups Legislative Responsibilities

Deliverables:

Drawing on existing climate data and studies, the working groups are responsible to:

- Evaluate and recommend short- and long-term mitigation strategies to reduce gross and net annual greenhouse gas emissions
 - Quantitatively analyze and report on the technical feasibility and cost-effectiveness of each mitigation strategy
 - Develop plans to encourage and prepare for transportation transitions, including low-carbon and no-carbon technologies; any associated infrastructure changes; and infrastructure changes required as the result of climate disruption
 - Developing new and supporting existing programs, codes and incentives that encourage increased energy efficiency and lower carbon emissions from the State's public and private buildings and businesses
- Evaluate and recommend short- and long-term strategies and actions (and implementation guidelines) for adaptation and resiliency to climate change, in line with relevant decision-making criteria, including:
 - Assess how the agriculture, fishing, forestry and other natural resource-based industries in the State might best adapt to climate change impacts
 - Climate change impacts baseline data from Scientific & Technical Subcommittee
 - Assess the need for utilities and other public, private service providers throughout the State to adjust operating practices and investment strategies to increase their resiliency to climate change impacts
 - Develop and recommend strategies to address and prepare for coastal and coastal watershed hazards
 - Assessing how low-income and vulnerable residents and communities of the State will be affected by strategies
- Provide input and feedback to the Maine Climate Council on the clean energy economy transition plan
- Assess impacts that climate change may have on
 - the State's economy, revenues and investment decisions;
 - Agriculture, fishing, forestry and other natural resource-based industries in the State
- Develop recommendations for legislation, including, but not limited to, legislation to better enable state agencies to implement the long-term goals included in the updated climate action plan
- Establish comprehensive and accountable annual WG work plans at the first meeting each calendar year; set annual goals and performance benchmarks; solicit input from stakeholders and members of the public; and communicate with the public on progress and actions
- Consider other related matters as the council, the subcommittee and the working groups determine to be necessary.